

the Kanni Session and this resolution is substantially identical.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I think it is true, Sir. The same proposition was moved once.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I don't think that it is substantially identical.

Deputy President.—I think it is substantially the same. I rule it out.

11. *Publication of Marriages.*

Deputy President.—The next resolution is that of Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja that "*this Council recommends that rules framed by the Government requiring the publication of marriages under the Nayar Regulation in the Government Gazette be deleted.*"

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I do not move the resolution, Sir.

(Hence it was considered withdrawn.)

12. *Administration Reports.*

Deputy President.—The next resolution is in the name of Mr. K. T. Mathew. The Member is absent.

(Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

"*This Council requests the Government to publish annually Administration Reports of all the Departments and supply the Members of the Legislative Council with a copy of all such reports.*")

13. *Committee on Kole Cultivation.*

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, the resolution which stands in my name reads as follows :—

"*That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of the Diwan Peishkar, the Chief Engineer, the Agricultural Superintendent and three non-official Members of this House be appointed to take evidence on the subject of kole cultivation in the State, and that some definite action be taken to improve the present system by remedying all the defects at present existing, and taking into consideration the suggestion in the reports submitted by the Committee as well as private kole cultivators.*"

Hon'ble Members will be aware that in the time of Diwan Mr. (now Sir) T. Vijayaraghavacharia a Committee was appointed to go into the question of kole cultivation. The report of the Committee was submitted in the course of a year. Its principal recommendation was to take up the investigation of the Chalakkudi scheme by which the waters of the Chalakkudi river would be diverted by a dam constructed at a point near Echippara and turned on into the bed of the Trichur Lake. Orders were then passed accepting the recommendation and

several other subsidiary recommendations made by the Committee. This was eight years ago; and is it not most regrettable that the Government have not done anything in the matter?

Even till to-day the *kole* cultivators are left to the tender mercies of the seasons; and if the seasons are not favourable, as is very often the case, the ryots have to suffer terrible losses. Two or three years back, the *kole* cultivation was a complete failure, and the matter was discussed on the floors of the Council. It is to be regretted that the Government did not even make a remission of the taxes to the suffering cultivators. Sir, if the Cochin State were to become self-sufficing in the matter of its paddy-supply, the Government should come to the help of the *kole* cultivators and devise and carry out some schemes which will help this form of agriculture above seasonal fluctuations.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I beg to second it.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Sir, the Government appreciate the spirit of sympathy which underlies the resolution. But they are unable to find the necessity for the appointment of a committee. There is already a lot of literature on the subject. The Government are fully aware of the difficulties which had been existing and are still existing in the matter of the cultivation of the *kole* lands. Government also know what remedial measures are possible and practicable. Although my connection with the subject has been short, I may say that some remedial measures have been taken in the past and were found successful. When the Government knows fully what the ills are and what the remedies, they cannot understand, what useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee as is proposed. They regret, therefore, that they cannot agree to the resolution. On other details, the Chief Engineer will speak, if desired. If it says the problem of the irrigation of the *kole* lands will be greatly solved, we may after a year or two see how far it is such a solution. It is now too early to investigate its possibilities.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The House would like to know what are the defects and what are the remedial measures taken.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Hon'ble the mover of the resolution has explained all those things in his speech. There was a public meeting held at Trichur under the presidency of the Bishop of Trichur and then a deputation waited on the Diwan. The Diwan had a discussion of the matter with the deputationists, and in carrying on that discussion he was assisted by the Liwan Peishkar, the Chief Engineer and the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats. Much material was

gathered then. Subsequently there was a further consideration of the matter by the Chief Engineer, the Diwan Peishkar and the Agricultural Superintendent jointly after ascertaining the views of various leading *kole* cultivators and the submission of a joint note by them. All this literature is before us. We do not then see the necessity for a committee, and we trust that the House will agree with us when we say that it is profitless to appoint a committee. (But at the same time we fully sympathise with the resolution. We are keenly alive of the interest taken by this House.) For the last two years I understand there have not been any very serious complaints from the *kole* cultivators. The *kole* cultivators do not take any exceptional stand among the ryots. Other cultivators are in the same position. I went and inspected some of the *kole* lands, and I was told by the cultivators that a new sort of cultivation (*Kuttadam*) is being tried and that it is becoming popular. This cultivation is begun by the middle of Meenam. By Meenam the *kole* crops will be in a good condition, and I believe that the harvest time is by the middle of Medam. The crops will be alright, and if any water is required, they can have water from the *Kuttadam* lands. They say it is becoming very popular. We may, after waiting for a year or two, see how far this *Kuttadam* cultivation is helping the irrigation of the *kole* lands. Now it will be too early to make an investigation on these lines.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That is a very risky cultivation.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—*Kole* cultivation is itself risky. There is risk in everything. People say that for the last two years it was a success. Recently, I had occasion to visit some of these places. The *kole* cultivators' present trouble, if any, is due to excess water. They want to drain away a portion of it. Bunds are put up at Munayam and Chirakkal and they serve useful purposes. After a year or two, we shall investigate these matters and until then the question may lie over.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Last time some people were experimenting this.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They say it is a success. Much labour is not required for this cultivation. The yield from *kole* cultivation may be a little more; but then this cultivation has the advantage of being carried out at less cost.

Deputy President.—Do you want to press the motion?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—In view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, I do not press the motion.

(The resolution was withdrawn with leave.)